

# COVID-19

## Situational Report

**Customers, partners, and employees:** YKHC is here for you and your family. YKHC is making decisions related to COVID-19 based on guidance from the CDC, the State of Alaska and other experts. We are erring on the side of caution and in the best interests of our employees, customers and communities. YKHC is publishing a situational report to provide an update on our COVID-19 response and planning. [Here is this week's report.](#)

### Testing Update

As of 11 a.m. September 18, YKHC has performed 18,255 tests — 17,724 are negative and about 442 are pending. Three specimens were rejected by a private lab. YKHC has tested individuals in 33 communities in our service area, including Bethel.

- YKHC has confirmed or identified a total of 118 positive COVID-19 cases in Bethel and the YK Delta. 16 of these total cases were residents either tested out-of-region or were not infectious while here, but per State reporting protocols, will be counted as YK Delta cases. 19 of these total cases are non-residents, so per State reporting protocols, the official State YK Delta case count will remain at 83.
- Every Wednesday from noon-4:00 p.m. YKHC offers free COVID-19 testing **without** appointment at the drive-thru testing site in Bethel. Testing at this site continues to be available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 2:00-4:00 p.m., but by appointment only. Individuals concerned with COVID-19-related symptoms should call their local village clinic, or in Bethel call 543-6949, to be assisted.
- All new positive COVID-19 cases identified and known in the YK Delta are reported on YKHC's website at: <https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/news/>

### Recoveries

- Cases are considered recovered either through serial testing or time.
  - For serial testing, if an individual has been symptomatic, they must receive 2 negative PCR tests more than 24 hours apart after symptoms resolve to be cleared. If they are asymptomatic, they must receive a negative PCR test after the initial test.
  - For time, an individual who has been symptomatic is considered recovered when 10 days have elapsed from when symptoms began, symptoms show improvement, and an additional 3 days have elapsed since their last fever. If asymptomatic, an individual is considered recovered 10 days from their last test.
- Of the total 118 confirmed or known positives cases in the YK Delta, YKHC is managing contact tracing and follow-up testing

for 100 of these cases — as they were identified in-region, are YK Delta residents currently elsewhere in state, or considered infectious while here. 98 of these 118 cases are considered recovered, with 18 remaining active and 2 deceased.

### Situation Report

- On September 11, YKHC identified five new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **Case 1:** On September 11, YKHC identified five new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from. The individual is a close contact of a previously known COVID-19 case.
  - **Case 2:** On September 11, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport.
  - **Case 3:** On September 11, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of an individual in a YKHC service area village. The case was identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport. The individual subsequently continued travel, but was not notified about the positive result until after travel occurred.
  - **Case 4:** On September 11, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from. The individual is a close contact of a previously known COVID-19 case.
  - **Case 5:** On September 11, YKHC was notified an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19 elsewhere in Alaska. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from. The individual subsequently returned to the region, but was not notified about the positive result until after travel occurred.
  - More on the five cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/five-covid19-cases-in-ykdelta-sept11/>

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## Situational Report

### Situation Report (continued)

- On September 12, YKHC identified eight new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta.
  - **September 12: Case 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5:** Late in the day on September 11, YKHC confirmed five individuals who reside in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individuals are from. These individuals are close contacts of a previously known COVID-19 case.
  - **Case 6:** Late in the day on September 11, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of a Bethel resident identified through testing of inbound passengers at the Bethel airport.
  - **Case 7:** Late in the day on September 11, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of an individual in a YKHC service area village. Contact tracing indicates this is a travel-related case.
  - **Case 8:** On September 11, YKHC confirmed a positive COVID-19 case of an individual in a YKHC service area village, tested in accordance with Health Mandate 18. The individual is not a resident of the YK Delta and, per State reporting protocols, will not be counted in the YK Delta positive case count.
  - More on the eight cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/eight-covid19-cases-in-ykdelta-september-12/>
- On September 14, YKHC identified four new COVID-19 cases in the YK Delta
  - **Case 1:** Late in the day on September 12, YKHC was notified that an individual who resides in Bethel tested positive for COVID-19 in Anchorage. While the individual has been out of region for over two weeks, per State reporting protocols, the positive case will be counted as a YK Delta case.
  - **Case 2:** On September 14, YKHC confirmed an individual who resides in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individual is from.
  - **Case 3 and 4:** On September 14, YKHC confirmed two individuals who reside in a YKHC service area village tested positive for COVID-19. To protect patient privacy, YKHC is not releasing the name of the service area village the individuals are from. Contact tracing indicates this is a travel-related case.
  - More on the four cases here: <https://www.ykhc.org/four-covid-19-cases-in-yk-delta-september-14/>
- YKHC has evidence that community spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, is occurring in Nunapitchuk. A joint advisory was issued on September 16 by YKHC, the Native Village of Nunapitchuk, and City of Nunapitchuk out of an abundance of caution, to warn the public we believe community spread is occurring and so individuals can take appropriate measures to reduce exposure to or spread of the virus. The determination of community spread was made by YKHC on September 15, following one recent COVID-19 case that cannot be linked to travel at this time. The case investigation is on-going. The determination of community spread of COVID-19 is not unexpected given the recent spike in travel-related cases in the YK Delta.
  - More here on the community spread: <https://www.ykhc.org/covid19-community-spread-nunapitchuk-sept16/>

### Resources

- YKHC COVID-19 page: [www.ykhc.org/covid-19](http://www.ykhc.org/covid-19)
- State of Alaska COVID-19 page: [covid19.alaska.gov/](https://covid19.alaska.gov/)
- CDC COVID-19 page: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/)

### Contact

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YKHC Incident Command, 907-543-6275. Currently staffed Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.